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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 18 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 17 April 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on Sri Lanka.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 82 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative of the
Netherlands to the United Nations

* A/52/50.

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 17 April 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on Sri Lanka

The European Union welcomes the exchange of letters between the President of Sri Lanka and the leader of the opposition on a bipartisan approach to the ethnic conflict in that country. The European Union congratulates the two Sri Lankan leaders on their political courage and far-sighted statesmanship.

The European Union believes that this exchange offers a constructive approach to the problems facing Sri Lanka and a promise of consistency for the future, regardless of changes in government. The European Union hopes that this exchange will be implemented in good faith and will contribute to a building of confidence between the different parties and to an ending of confrontational politics in Sri Lanka.

The European Union also hopes that the exchange will contribute to a national agreement to ensure peace and a lasting and fair settlement to the conflict, which has impeded the country's development and taken such a heavy toll of lives and resources among Sri Lankans of every origin.

The European Union shall assist, where possible, reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts in the north and east, in particular Jaffna, taking into account the prevailing conditions for successful implementation of reconstruction efforts in the peninsula.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated country Cyprus and the European Free Trade Association countries, Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.